

Annual Report to the  
National Aeronautics and Space AdministrationGlobal Biodiversity Assessment  
Grant NAGW-3815Reporting Period:  
November 15, 1993 - September 30, 1994Background

Funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), UNEP launched a worldwide effort to assess the status of knowledge and experience concerning the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The aim of this work is to provide governments and other interested groups with a scientifically sound, peer-reviewed report that will help guide implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

WRI's Kenton Miller was asked by the Executive Director of UNEP to serve as Coordinator for Section 10 of the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA), "Measures for Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of its Components." Co-coordinators of this section are Bror Jonsson (Norway's National Institute for Nature Research) and Mary Allegretti (Brazil's Institute for Amazon Studies). This work involves overseeing all aspects of the production of eight chapters on specific sub-topics, drafting the comprehensive Introduction and Executive Summary for the Section, and participating in the GBA Steering Group and several coordinating and peer review meetings. The Section 10 document will be finalized by March 1995. The entire GBA document will be published in May or June 1995.

Activities During the Reporting Period

Kenton Miller and WRI Associate Nels Johnson began planning for the development of Section 10 in January 1994. A draft outline for the document was prepared and circulated to Section 10 co-coordinators in February. On March 21-22, WRI hosted a small workshop that brought the Section 10 coordinating team (Kenton Miller, Nels Johnson, Mary Allegretti, and Bror Jonsson) together with Section 9 (Human Impacts on Biodiversity) coordinators, Ivar Baste (UNEP GBA Task Manager) and Vernon Heywood (GBA Executive Editor) to review and revise draft outlines and develop a workplan.

Beginning in March, WRI invited experts from around the world to contribute to the writing of Section 10. These included experts with extensive experience on issues covered by Section 10 (e.g., protected area planners, conservation biologists, genetic resources specialists, social scientists and legal experts). In April and May, guidelines were sent to each expert who agreed to contribute.

Several experts agreed to serve as the lead author for the chapters relevant to their expertise. These included Richard Hobbs for ecosystem conservation measures, Eduardo Fuentes for species and genetic conservation measures, and Francoise Burhenne-Guilmin for legal measures. Members of the coordinating team each served as lead authors for the remaining chapters -- Nels Johnson for the conceptual framework and conservation priorities chapters, Bror Jonsson for the chapter on sustainable use in natural resources management, Mary Allegretti for the chapter on social measures for conservation, and Kenton Miller for the final chapter on integrating conservation and sustainable use measures.

A detailed and annotated outline was prepared at WRI in April. This outline served as the basis for a late April workshop hosted by IUCN in Switzerland to coordinate and link issues covered by Sections 9 and 10. The section coordinators were joined by several of the contributing authors at the April workshop.

During May and most of June, WRI conducted research and wrote parts of Section 10, corresponded with contributing authors, and identified gaps where additional contributions were needed. While in Nairobi for the Intergovernmental Conference on the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICCBD) in late June, the coordinators of Sections 9 and 10 met to review partial drafts of the respective sections and to exchange materials, eliminate overlaps in the drafts, etc.

Drafts from contributing authors were received and integrated into the draft, with additional writing and research subsequently contributed by WRI. A near-final first draft was completed and sent to the participants of a Section 9 and 10 workshop hosted by the Indian Centre for Ecological Sciences in Bangalore. Held July 26-28, the workshop was attended by forty experts from a broad array of conservation-related disciplines. Participants were from India, as well as countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Participants critiqued the first draft, prepared additional contributions, and provided guidance to the Section coordinators.

During the past month, the first draft was revised to address comments received at the Bangalore workshop, missing sections were integrated from late arriving contributions (or drafted by WRI staff), and a list of potential peer reviewers was forwarded to UNEP. In addition, an executive summary was prepared. On September 9, the draft was sent to UNEP in Nairobi for distribution to peer reviewers. UNEP began distribution of Section 10 to peer reviewers in late September. The peer review draft is attached.

### Activities During the Next Reporting Period

UNEP is allowing 6-8 weeks for peer reviewers to submit their comments. Reviews are to be sent directly to section coordinators with copies to UNEP. WRI, therefore, anticipates receiving reviewer comments in mid-to-late November. Revisions will be made following receipt of most reviewer comments, probably starting in December. WRI will complete a revised draft before UNEP hosts a meeting of all section coordinators in late January or February, although delays in the completion of peer review drafts for several other sections of the Global Biodiversity Assessment may delay this schedule by a few weeks. This four-day meeting will serve to review revised drafts, eliminate overlaps, identify gaps in the overall draft GBA, plan the final editing process, and draft a policy-maker's guide to the GBA.

Following the meeting to review revised drafts, WRI and co-coordinators will make a last set of revisions and final edits and submit the document to UNEP. WRI plans to submit the final version of Section 10 in March 1995; however, this will depend on the UNEP-coordinated schedule. At the current time, UNEP anticipates publication of the GBA in late May or June 1995.